

# Washington State Patrol Fact Sheet

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **"Homeward Bound"**

**History:** This project began with an idea a CVD Trooper Renee Padgett had to partner the Missing Children Clearinghouse and the Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force to make posters of missing children to feature on semi tractor trailers. The project became a Problem Oriented Public Safety (POPS) project (the POPS program focuses on bringing the Washington State Patrol, citizens and other stakeholders together to work as partners to address public safety issues.) known as "Homeward Bound"

The goal of the project is to get the word out to as many people as possible through the posters which will travel through Washington State and neighboring states where the children might be located. When the children are found, a "Recovered" sign will be placed over the top of the posters. If successful the project may be implementation nationwide with other agencies following suit.

Graphic design company IMAGIC, owner David Allman, agreed to make the posters of missing children displaying "Have you seen me?" along with the phone number for 1-800-THE-LOST and WSP Web address for additional contact information. The company provided their services at cost, which was \$2,500. This money was generously donated by Budget Auto Wrecking owners Vic and Mary Payment.

In addition, the WSP partnered with the Washington Trucking Association, and Gordon Trucking Inc. to display the posters.

On April 21, 2006 the project was completed and unveiled to the public in the parking lot of Gordon Trucking Inc.

The initial project is to run for one year featuring the pictures of four missing children. These children are all from Washington State. The goal is to get at least 100 trucks, which would cost about \$23,100. Without ongoing support, the program will not be able to continue. If anyone is interested in donating money they can contact the WSP Missing and Exploited Children's Task Force to get more information.